

# Increasing Motorcycle Awareness

## Advice to DRIVERS and RIDERS

More than half of car-motorcycle crashes are caused by drivers, not by motorcyclists. The driver generally does not see the motorcyclist in time.





*“The driver didn’t  
see me coming.”*

Don’t assume  
that the driver of another  
vehicle can see you. As a motorcyclist,  
it is your responsibility to make your presence known.

## **ADVICE TO MOTORCYCLISTS**

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- **Make yourself visible.** Choose riding gear that increases your visibility in traffic in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. Use bright colors and retro-reflective strips or decals, especially at night.
- **Ride so you are seen.** There is no one safe place to ride. Use lane positioning to be seen. Ride with your headlight on and consider using a modulating headlight.
- **Give yourself space and time to react.** Allow space for emergency braking or for avoiding a crash. Make your lane moves gradually.
- **Signal your intentions.** Signal before changing lanes. Avoid weaving between lanes. Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- **Be courteous and respect other road users.** Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.

## ADVICE TO DRIVERS

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- **Respect the motorcyclist.** Motorcycles are vehicles with the same privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.
- **Look for motorcycles.** Motorcycles are smaller profile vehicles that are harder to see and their speeds are more difficult to estimate. Look for motorcycles at intersections, especially before making a left turn. Check your blind spots frequently and before changing lanes. Always signal your intentions.
- **Allow plenty of space.** Traffic, weather and road conditions require the motorcyclist to react and maneuver differently. Allow enough room for the motorcyclist to maneuver and enough time for you to adjust.
- **Be courteous and respectful.** Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.

Drivers tend to look for other cars not motorcycles. Because of their smaller profile, motorcycles are harder to see and it is more difficult to estimate their speed.

*“I didn’t see the motorcycle.”*



**WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration**

**Phone: 800.950.1MVA**

**Maryland Highway Safety Office**

**Phone: 888.963.0307**

**Motorcycle Safety Foundation**

**Phone: 949.727.3227**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

**Phone: 202.366.1739**

**American Motorcyclist Association**

**Phone: 641.891.2425**

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

**Phone: 202.546.0983**

**National Association of State Administrators**

**Phone: 612.785.9242**

Choose **Safety** for Life★

